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Summary record of the 15th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 25 October 2011, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Kelly (Vice-Chair) ..... (Ireland)
later: Mr. Ciss (Vice-Chair)..... (Senegal)

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In the absence of Ms. Miculescu (Romania), Mr. Kelly (Ireland), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 54: Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Errázuriz** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the operational capacity and organizational structure of United Nations peacekeeping required further strengthening. Since their perceived legitimacy was essential, peacekeeping missions must conform fully with the Charter of the United Nations and the basic principles of consent of the parties, impartiality, and use of force only in self-defence or in defence of the mandate. The Rio Group was ready to participate in informal talks on improving the working methods of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which should interact more with the Security Council and the Fifth Committee. Having taken part in the New Horizon process, the Group took note of the update paper and urged the Secretariat to continue consulting Member States. Underlining the importance of the global field support strategy, the Group took note of the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the strategy (A/65/643) and called for further consultations.

2. Recalling that most peacekeepers came from developing countries, he said that the Security Council should take the views of all troop- and police-contributing countries into account. The system of periodic information meetings on military issues needed consolidating, in particular in higher-threat areas. Better coordination between the Security Council, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Secretariat and troop- and police-contributing countries was vital. Regional peacekeeping arrangements, which could not replace the United Nations, must function in accordance with the Charter and peacekeeping principles. Convinced that the highest level of ethical conduct of all peacekeeping personnel must be guaranteed and the policy of zero tolerance towards sexual exploitation and abuse must be maintained, the Group welcomed the progress in implementation of the Comprehensive Strategy on Assistance and Support to Victims of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff and Related Personnel.

3. The peacekeeping system could not be sustained unless troop- and police-contributing countries had the necessary capacities. The progress in making timely reimbursements to Member States was welcome, but the Secretariat should make further improvements, ensuring that all missions were treated equally. Concerned that the availability of human and material resources, especially from developing countries, could be at risk, members of the Rio Group had participated in recent sessions of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment. Notwithstanding the agreement on revised reimbursement rates, the Working Group's recommendations fell short of the Rio Group's expectations, taking into account inflation. The Rio Group took note of General Assembly resolution 63/285 and called on the Working Group to review the results of the periodic inspections at the end of the current exercise and then every three years, in order to provide the Fifth Committee with a technical manual. The previous review of troop costs having been in 1992, and in view of the heavy burden on troop-contributing countries, the Group welcomed the one-off payment for 2011/12 and the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group to consider rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries. To ensure the Senior Advisory Group's legitimacy, troop-contributing countries from all regions should participate in the mechanism to constitute it.

4. The Group looked forward to receiving details of the capability-driven approach, whose ultimate aim should be to improve training in countries wishing to contribute to peacekeeping. It again insisted that publications on peacekeeping operations should be distributed in Spanish and Portuguese. The Group welcomed recent cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

5. The Special Committee should hold in-depth discussions on every aspect of peacekeeping reflecting the need to take context into account in mandates. Without effective coordination between the United Nations peacebuilding architecture and the funds and programmes, acting in coordination with the national authorities of countries emerging from conflict, the peacebuilding process could not advance. In order to achieve long-term stability and prevent the recurrence of conflict, the United Nations field presence must be enhanced, not only in peacekeeping but also in

strengthening institutions, promoting reconstruction and fostering economic and social development in conflict areas. There should be more coordination between Member States and United Nations bodies, in particular the Peacebuilding Commission. Recalling Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), he noted that only 3 per cent of military personnel and 9 per cent of police were women. The Rio Group called for an increase in the number of women deployed in peacekeeping missions.

6. Reaffirming its solidarity with the Haitian people and Government, the Rio Group acknowledged the international effort in Haiti, under the leadership of the Government. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) should remain as long as necessary, under the renewed mandate contained in Security Council resolution 2012 (2011). Members of the Rio Group contributed police personnel and most of the troops along with technical cooperation and humanitarian assistance. Special attention must be paid to security and also to Haiti's economic and social development. Within the scope of its mandate, MINUSTAH should use all available means to continue supporting Haiti's reconstruction.

7. **Mr. Sabyeroop** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that, although mediation and monitoring of peace agreements were useful, United Nations peacekeeping remained the best instrument for maintaining international peace and security. Peacekeeping operations must respect the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in domestic affairs. In post-conflict environments above all, a holistic approach was needed. The Security Council should therefore enhance complementarity between peacekeeping operations and other essential work, by means of realistic exit strategies and a smooth transition to peacebuilding and development. United Nations peacekeeping was a unique global partnership involving the Member States, the Security Council and the Secretariat. With over 120,000 peacekeepers currently serving in 16 operations, trilateral cooperation and coordination should be strengthened.

8. Many ASEAN member States were troop- and police-contributing countries. Almost 5,000 of their police, troops and military experts were deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Through improved coordination between its competent sectoral bodies, ASEAN hoped to strengthen its role in peacekeeping. In view of the importance of clear, credible and realistic mandates, troop- and police-contributing countries should be included at every stage of mandate-drafting; mandates must not overstretch those countries' resources.

9. Taking note of the efforts to enhance the well-being of troops on the ground, ASEAN hoped that the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors would make constructive proposals. ASEAN looked forward to further progress in making operations more efficient and would closely examine the progress report on the global field support strategy. Noting with satisfaction the efforts of the Department of Field Support to close the resource gap, ASEAN believed that South-South cooperation should play a significant role. The review of civilian capacity should strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and Member States, in particular those from the South.

10. Speaking as the representative of Thailand, he saluted peacekeepers, including Thai nationals, who had lost their lives. Thailand had contributed nearly 20,000 troops and military observers, along with police officers, to United Nations peacekeeping [illegible] two decades, testifying to its unwavering commitment to peace and security.

11. **Mr. Vargas** (Brazil) said that the ultimate goal of peacekeeping must be to create conditions for lasting peace. In that regard security must go hand in hand with development. His delegation therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to ask peacekeeping missions to provide information on their local economic impact; they should also make recommendations on how to maximize their impact. Strengthening the rule of law was another key aspect of peacekeepers' work and rule-of-law assistance should be given wherever necessary. In certain circumstances, peacekeepers should also help with managing natural resources, guaranteeing property and land rights, and establishing administrative structures. Knowledge management and civil affairs were crucial peacekeeping tools that needed further strengthening.

12. Peacekeeping required the best possible human and material resources, a delicate issue in the current financial climate. However, maintaining artificially low reimbursement rates did not lower costs but transferred them to the troop-contributing countries, to the detriment of training, preparedness and capabilities.

Welcoming the Fifth Committee's decision to harmonize conditions of service, he voiced his delegation's support for the civilian capacity review, but called for attention to be paid to achieving gender equality and equitable geographical representation in mission leadership. The report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must be action-oriented and all delegations must participate in its work. His delegation would contribute to improving the Special Committee's working methods and hoped to see results at its next session.

13. **Ms. Sutikno** (Indonesia) saluted United Nations peacekeepers who had been killed or injured over the previous year. Indonesia had contributed to peacekeeping operations since 1957 and would continue to do so. As missions had become more complex and dangerous, it was incumbent on the international community to provide clear guidelines along with the requisite equipment, training and resources. The Security Council must continue to monitor the situation on the ground while the Secretariat must provide sound and credible assessments; troop- and police-contributing countries must be involved at every stage of peacekeeping. Shortfalls in resources would affect not only the safety of peacekeepers but also their ability to protect civilians. Her delegation therefore called on the Secretary-General to include in his briefings on peacekeeping operations a realistic assessment of how available capabilities and logistics planning affected mandate implementation, including the protection of civilians.

14. In addition to peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding was crucial for war-torn societies; her delegation endorsed the request of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for effective coordination by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations and non-United Nations agencies. Furthermore, skilled and culturally aware civilian experts, especially from the South, could be deployed in areas where their expertise was required. She supported the efforts to improve the Special Committee's working methods.

15. **Mr. Pham** Vinh Quang (Viet Nam) emphasized the wide range of complex mandates entrusted to United Nations peacekeeping missions and the continued efforts by the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support to meet demands effectively. His delegation welcomed the recommendations in the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations on preserving unity of command in peacekeeping missions at all levels, and the need for coherence in policy and strategy. To strengthen United Nations peacekeeping, the implementation of mandates and the reform of peacekeeping must be carried out in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and universally recognized principles. The Secretariat must provide all stakeholders with an early assessment of capabilities and resource requirements before launching a new operation.

16. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional arrangements would allow for full understanding of situations and help missions to achieve their objectives. Peacekeeping could not resolve all problems relating to international peace and security, nor was it a substitute for national and local processes of reconciliation. For sustainable peace to be achieved, the root causes of conflicts must be resolved, through engagement of all parties on the basis of dialogue and peaceful settlement of disputes. Viet Nam was preparing to participate in peacekeeping operations, in accordance with its capacities.

17. **Mr. Selim** (Egypt) said that United Nations peacekeeping faced heightened demand, greater complexity and extra responsibility, increasing the burdens on the Organization and on troop- and police-contributing countries. In that regard, there was a need for improved assessment, effective planning and rapid emergency response. Peacekeeping should not be seen as an alternative to addressing the root causes of conflict or as a conflict-management tool. With regard to the New Horizon process, concepts, policies and strategies should evolve alongside progress in planning and oversight. The requisite resources and greater political will were needed to guarantee the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations.

18. Asserting the need for effective triangular cooperation, he affirmed the importance of achieving consensus among Member States on policy development and implementing only approaches that had been collectively adopted. Peacekeeping missions should receive proper financial, human, military and civilian support and their tasks must not be changed without the consent of troop-contributing countries. Mandates must be clear, feasible and linked to implementation on the ground. Welcoming the

establishment of the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors, he expressed the hope that it would resolve the important issues involved. However, the recommendations of the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment fell short of expectations.

19. In his view, deterrence must be achieved without unjustified expansion of the capacity to use force. Further consultation was needed with Member States to counter violations of the safety of personnel. His delegation called for greater attention to be paid to exit strategies, as States increasingly requested the termination of missions where they perceived a switch to conflict management. There must be increased integration of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, under the auspices of the Peacebuilding Commission, but not in order to cut costs. The protection of civilians should not be used as a pretext for United Nations military intervention and a solution must be found to the legal difficulties relating to the characterisation of civilians in armed conflicts as combatants. Egypt supported the role of the police in United Nations peacekeeping. Cooperation with regional organizations should continue and the African Union, in particular, should receive United Nations financial and logistical support. He called for further consultations on the implementation of the global field support strategy to address the challenges of field support for peacekeeping operations.

20. As proof of its commitment to peacekeeping, Egypt remained one of the biggest troop- and police-contributing countries, and would continue to contribute military, police and civilian personnel to peacekeeping operations. He concluded by paying tribute to all peacekeepers, in particular those who had lost their lives.

21. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his country was proud of its achievements in peacekeeping. It had organized free and fair elections in April 2010, under international and regional supervision, and a peaceful referendum on self-determination in southern Sudan, after which it had recognized the independence of South Sudan. The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) had been wound up in July 2011, but the Sudan continued to work with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). He called on the international community to apply pressure on those parties that had not signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement; they were to blame for recent criminal activity. Thanks to the UNAMID tripartite coordinating mechanism between the Government of the Sudan, the United Nations and the African Union, there had been a considerable improvement in the security and humanitarian situation in Darfur, where murder rates had fallen as a result of the host country's cooperation with the United Nations mission.

22. Peacekeeping operations must comply with the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. Recalling the Brahimi report, he emphasized that the use of force was permissible only in self-defence and must not harm the relationship between the host country and the mission. Peacekeeping operations had changed over time, taking on a humanitarian dimension and combining police and military elements, but those changes must not prevent the root causes of conflicts from being addressed. While peacekeeping operations could not replace political processes, they must receive political support. They needed a focused mandate and a clear and rapidly deployable exit strategy. The numbers of national personnel in peacekeeping operations should be increased, while commitments concerning the transportation and housing of troops must be honoured. He emphasized the importance of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration.

23. **Ms. Niang** (Senegal) said that since operations had begun 115 countries had provided peacekeeping personnel, whose numbers had increased ninefold since 1999. She paid tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for peace, calling for conditions in the field to be improved. The current deployment levels and the multidimensional nature of peacekeeping operations were unprecedented. Although peacekeeping operations were not mentioned in the Charter of the United Nations, many fulfilled military, political, humanitarian and even peacebuilding roles. Stakeholders must therefore jointly aim for efficiency, necessitating improved triangular cooperation. She called on the Security Council to define clear and objective mandates, and to conduct awareness-raising campaigns to secure local support in deployment areas. The Organization must make available financial and logistical resources, in which regard more predictable financing was needed, in particular from developed countries. She called for closer partnerships between countries contributing troops and those providing equipment, while more attention should be paid to training

peacekeepers, with emphasis on respect for local customs.

24. Four of the eight peacekeeping operations deployed by the African Union and subregional organizations since 1989 had led to United Nations missions, including the hybrid operation in Darfur. Since three quarters of peacekeeping operations, in human and financial terms, were deployed in Africa, the African Union's capacity to prevent conflicts should be further strengthened. In general, more should be done to address the root causes of crises and to implement more coherent development policies. Her delegation believed that preventive diplomacy backed by early warning systems could neutralize conflicts at the outset.

25. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that, in a rapidly changing international environment, peacekeeping had constantly evolved, and remained a legitimate tool for maintaining global peace and security. Multidimensional operations currently involved civilian experts working on a range of social and judicial issues. The increased demands illustrated the growing confidence in the United Nations while highlighting the many challenges facing the international community, including the critical issues of State sovereignty and consent, along with capacity-building and the protection of civilians. Greater understanding on the part of Member States of those issues would help to dispel controversies. Since further reform would make peacekeeping operations more efficient, he welcomed the global field support strategy, which should accelerate deployment, and the New Horizon process.

26. Responsibility for peacekeeping must be shared by the General Assembly, the Security Council, the contributing and host countries, regional partners and the Secretariat, from mandate design to exit. The Security Council must ensure the coherence of peacekeeping strategies, which must be aimed at stabilizing security, supporting national political processes and creating an environment for economic development. Consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries when preparing mandates must be institutionalized; field support should be strengthened along with the ability to respond to demands for civilian capacity. The security of peacekeepers must be paid due attention while their morale and dignity should be maintained. Welcoming the establishment of the a Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors, his delegation highlighted the need for the timely processing of death and disability claims. The United Nations should recognize the predeployment training offered to peacekeepers by the contributing countries, with a view to standardization.

27. Since 1958, Nepal had contributed over 90,000 troops to peacekeeping operations, marking its deep commitment to the Charter and its obligations as a responsible member of the international community. Determined to continue contributing, his country would take into account the need for gender balance. Finally, he paid tribute to those peacekeepers, including Nepalese nationals, who had sacrificed their lives.

28. **Ms. Bolaños-Pérez** (Guatemala) said that, as both a beneficiary of a United Nations peacekeeping mission and later a troop-contributing country, her country fully appreciated the value of peacekeeping operations.

29. Their nature had changed over the years, in particular since the Brahimi report. The Secretariat had presented further reports on new issues, such as gender, children in armed conflict, protection of civilians, security and the rule of law, and with the New Horizon process there had been a trend towards peacebuilding. In the context of the global field support strategy, her delegation called for improved logistical support, and commended the efforts of the Department of Field Support to ensure full participation by Member States in that process.

30. Peacekeeping operations must have clear, verifiable mandates tailored to each situation; for mandate implementation to be successful, resource gaps must be addressed through greater triangular cooperation. Each country had a specific contribution to make to peacekeeping operations; troop-contributing countries should not merely be informed, but must be consulted from the outset, through a process to which the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations must contribute. In view of the Special Committee's importance as the only forum mandated to review comprehensively the whole question of United Nations peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, its members must continue their efforts to improve its working methods.

31. Recalling that a few industrialized countries funded most of the peacekeeping budget whereas developing countries contributed most of the troops, her delegation warned of a potential clash that might compromise the future of operations. While it was difficult to cost lifesaving activities, the United

Nations was undoubtedly getting value for money. However, the existing imbalance underrated the contributions of troop-contributing countries, which were motivated only by the noble cause of keeping peace under the United Nations flag. That said, Guatemala hoped to be reimbursed in the spirit of General Assembly resolutions 63/285 and 65/289.

32. *Mr. Ciss (Senegal), Vice-Chair, took the Chair.*

33. **Ms. Vivas Mendoza** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that the new challenges faced by peacekeeping missions in a changing environment called for a critical evaluation. The number of missions and deployed personnel had risen, while the mandates set by the Security Council had become more complex, leading to increased integration between peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The success of a peacekeeping operation and the local population's perception of it depended on the legitimacy of the mission mandate. It was essential that in all circumstances peacekeeping missions should strictly adhere to the guiding principles of consent of the parties, non-use of force except in self-defence and impartiality. Peacekeeping operations must also respect the principles of sovereign equality of States, political independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of States.

34. The gap between the resources and capacities of troop-contributing countries and the expectations generated by mandates had given rise to undeniable tensions, as had the legal vacuum that made it impossible to determine exactly who was responsible for protecting civilians. The General Assembly must consider to what extent new doctrines were compatible with the basic peacekeeping principles. Peacekeeping operations must comply with their mandates, which must not jeopardize the complex relationship between United Nations personnel and their national counterparts. Reiterating the importance of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, she welcomed the recent efforts to improve its working methods and called for improved coordination between that Committee and peacekeeping missions. The ethical conduct of peacekeeping personnel must be irreproachable and the policy of zero tolerance of sexual abuse and exploitation must be fully applied. The international community should tackle the root causes of conflicts, which could only be remedied through political, social and economic measures designed to contribute to the well-being and development of peoples. Finally, she paid tribute to peacekeepers who had lost their lives.

35. **Mr. Abulhasan** (Kuwait) said that, in view of the difficult, delicate and complex nature of peacekeeping mandates, it was essential for peacekeeping forces to be given clearly defined tasks and objectives. There must be continued coordination and consultation between the Security Council and countries providing contingents, with lessons learned and best practices integrated into operational planning. Peacekeeping forces must be given full financial and technical support, in which connection comprehensive field studies should be conducted to identify their needs. In addition, the United Nations should play a more active role in the area of preventive diplomacy and early warning.

36. His Government's contributions to the budgets of peacekeeping operations had increased fivefold in recent years. Kuwait had paid its contributions in full and on time, convinced as it was that peacekeeping missions could fulfil their mandates only if the necessary resources were made available. It was to be hoped that all States would follow Kuwait's example.

37. The courage and sacrifice of the individuals participating in peacekeeping operations were worthy of the highest praise, and every effort should be made to ensure their safety. His delegation offered its deepest sympathy to the families and countries of those who had died while furthering the establishment of security, safety and peace by serving in peacekeeping forces.

38. **Mr. Idris** (Eritrea) said that as inter-State conflicts, formerly the main preoccupation of peacekeeping, had been superseded by intra-State conflicts, missions were often charged with not only monitoring peace but also protecting civilians and rebuilding States. Convinced that, for future operations to be effective, United Nations peacekeeping must be overhauled, his delegation commended the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations for reviewing the conceptual and operational framework of peacekeeping. In order to meet the growing threats to international security peacekeeping must evolve. Yet the basic principles underlying peacekeeping, including the Charter principles of respect for sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and non-intervention, must be respected. Operations must not be seen as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflicts nor must their neutrality be compromised. While regional arrangements were

important in the search for peace, they could not replace the United Nations in peacekeeping efforts; in many places, especially in Africa, caution was required when deploying troops from neighbouring countries. In view of the need to maintain credibility, it was vital to deter and punish misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, by peacekeepers. He paid tribute to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice far from home.

39. **Mr. Png** Yan Da (Singapore) said that his country had contributed to 15 peacekeeping and observer missions since 1989; each one had presented constantly changing issues and had raised high expectations locally and internationally. Singapore considered capacity-building to be an excellent way of enabling post-conflict communities to achieve lasting peace. By investing in post-conflict State-building the international community could help a country return to normal. The protection of civilians, who were increasingly at risk in conflicts, was not the sole responsibility of United Nations peacekeepers, who should work in tandem with host Governments and local communities. Peacekeepers and local authorities must have adequate training and sufficient resources for that purpose. The rise in attacks on United Nations buildings and personnel in peacekeeping operations was a cause for concern. Some might be sparked by local rejection of a United Nations presence, yet that presence was often essential for effective security operations to be delivered; the protection and security of United Nations personnel must therefore be guaranteed. More attention should be paid to women's special needs in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to ensuring gender equality in peacebuilding planning. His delegation was encouraged by efforts to increase the number of women in international deployment and called for a 20 per cent participation rate to be attained in police components by 2014.

40. **Mr. Assaraf** (Israel) said that, in view of the evolving environment and new challenges facing peacekeeping, new approaches must be found. In that regard, the New Horizon process was encouraging and should be developed further. Israel had responded to the calls by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Security Council for more countries to contribute to missions. After participating in the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) in 2008, it had sent a police unit to take part in MINUSTAH. In view of its performance, his delegation believed that the formed police unit model should be employed in other missions.

41. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) had served as an important force for stability along the Lebanese-Israeli border, implementing Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), to which Israel remained committed. Thanking all participants in UNIFIL, he expressed concern at violent incidents earlier in the year in which peacekeepers had been injured. According to the Secretary-General's most recent report on implementation of the resolution (S/2011/406), so-called civilians used by Hizbullah had obstructed UNIFIL's operations on numerous occasions. Hizbullah continued to build up its military forces and conceal weapons in south Lebanon. The Lebanese Armed Forces and UNIFIL must do more to halt Hizbullah's rearmament in southern Lebanon and the international community must denounce its activities.

42. The presence of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) in the region since 1974 had helped to stabilize the Israeli-Syrian frontier while helping Druze farmers export apples to Syria. Thanking all participants in UNDOF, he expressed concern at the increasing obstruction of its movements in Syria, highlighted by the Secretary-General. Earlier in the year UNDOF had been violently attacked by demonstrators on the Syrian side of the border and property had been destroyed. The Syrian Government should be encouraged to do all it could to ensure the safety of peacekeepers.

43. **Ms. Sodov** (Mongolia) said that peacekeeping was crucial for United Nations efforts to maintain international peace and security. In recent years, Mongolia's participation had grown considerably and it had contributed troops, contingent-owned equipment, military observers and staff officers to several operations. In view of the growing role of police and civilian elements, her Government had also contributed a level II medical unit to UNAMID. It had recently decided to contribute troops to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

44. While peacekeeping operations had been largely successful, there was room for improvement: more financial and logistical resources, equipment, capabilities and other means were needed, to accommodate increasing demands and the broader scope and increased complexity of missions. Mongolia

was ready to participate in triangular cooperation and was working towards making the Tavan Tolgoi Peace Operations Support Training Centre available. Mindful that personnel safety and security were an absolute priority, Mongolia would contribute a security unit to UNAMI. The protection of civilians was a moral imperative and must be assured in mission mandates. Finally, she called for further discussions on increasing reimbursement rates for troops and contingent-owned equipment.

45. **Mr. Rodríguez** (Peru) said that changes in the principles underpinning the United Nations approach to international peace and security in recent decades had been reflected in its peacekeeping operations, which had rapidly become multidimensional. In his report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/65/680), the Secretary-General described the three roles typically performed by peacekeeping operations. Missions incorporated both security and development dimensions, through peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities, including early peacebuilding.

46. Noting the progress report on the global field support strategy, his delegation believed that the Secretariat and Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries, must coordinate closely on its implementation, ensuring that missions remained effective and efficient. In view of the importance of ownership by host countries, State institutions and capacities must be strengthened to enable them to resolve conflicts. He noted that regional and international arrangements played an increasingly important role, complementing United Nations mediation and peacebuilding activities. Since peace and stability were the primary objectives of any peacekeeping operation, ongoing assessment was required, in which the Special Committee must play a leading role, along with the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the Economic and Social Council; more interaction among those bodies must be promoted. In the case of MINUSTAH, whose mandate had recently been renewed and to which Peru was fully committed, everything was being done to meet the urgent reconstruction requirements of the Haitian people and Government. All missions should have the necessary logistical capacities to accomplish their mandates effectively.

47. **Mr. Hamed** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that peacekeeping operations were an invaluable collective security tool at the disposal of the United Nations. However, they must respect the principles of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States and non-interference in their internal affairs, as set forth in the Charter. In addition, the agreement of all parties must be secured before an operation was established, there must be no use of force, and impartiality and coordination with the Government of the State in which the mission was deployed were essential. It was regrettable that there had been attempts on the part of some States to circumvent those principles.

48. Peacekeeping operations, however useful, could never be a substitute for resolution of a conflict, and it was essential to address underlying causes. A number of United Nations peacekeeping missions had been tasked with protecting civilians. But fundamental responsibility for the protection of civilians lay with national Governments, and it was essential for a peacekeeping operation not to encroach upon that responsibility; "protecting civilians" should not be used as a pretext for interfering in a State's internal affairs. Accordingly, frameworks and criteria for the protection of civilians should be defined before any peacekeeping operation was established.

49. The first United Nations peacekeeping operation in the Middle East had been the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), established in 1948 and still there, over half a century later. Unfortunately, peace was as far away as ever, owing to Israel's ongoing occupation of Arab territories, in defiance of legally binding United Nations resolutions, and its continued policies of aggression. That situation had necessitated the establishment of four very costly United Nations peacekeeping missions, both financially and in terms of human resources. Worse yet, mission personnel had on occasion been the target of threats and aggression. It was regrettable that no means of putting an end to Israel's repeated attacks on peacekeepers had yet been found.

50. The utmost respect and admiration was due to the personnel of peacekeeping forces, especially those engaged in the dangerous work of clearing land mines and cluster bombs. In particular, those who had laid down their lives in the performance of their duties were to be remembered and honoured.

51. **Mr. Nyakarundi** (Rwanda) said that his country had 3,700 peacekeepers serving in six missions. With

United Nations peacekeeping operations becoming increasingly complex and mandates expanding, his delegation supported the New Horizon process and looked forward to further improvements in operations. Mandates must be clear, feasible and include well-defined exit strategies, a goal best achieved through consultations with troop- and police-contributing countries.

52. Eighty-six peacekeepers had been killed and many more injured in 2011 and he paid tribute to them. The international community must take responsibility for the safety and security of personnel. Sufficient resources were a key requirement for successful missions but were consistently lacking. Peacekeepers must be adequately equipped, not least if they were to protect civilians; in particular, they lacked military utility helicopters. Welcoming the establishment of the Senior Advisory Group on reimbursement to troop contributors, he looked forward to its proposals on timely reimbursement. For Rwanda, a pioneer in women's empowerment, more representation of women in peacekeeping would be beneficial. While commending the efforts made to date, he called for further measures to be taken.

53. **Mr. Kamau** (Kenya) said that primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security lay with the United Nations. As peacekeeping had evolved from ceasefire monitoring to multidimensional operations, mandates and missions had needed constant revision, while respecting the basic principles of consent of the parties to the conflict, impartiality, and non-use of force except in self-defence or defence of the mandate. Kenya was aware that regional and subregional arrangements were increasingly playing a central role in conflict resolution. The African Union, for example, was involved in resolving conflicts in Darfur, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, but needed sustained financing to enhance its capacity. Welcoming the Security Council's decision to extend the mandate of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), he urged the international community to support it with a view to its becoming a United Nations operation or a hybrid mission like UNAMID.

54. Kenya was concerned about rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, which did not reflect economic realities. Some improvements had been made but the inherent delays still had to be eliminated. While he hoped that the Working Group on Contingent-Owned Equipment would address those challenges, he called for the creation of a mutually acceptable review mechanism to devise a lasting solution. Contributing troops was laudable, but quality was more desirable than quantity. Standardized predeployment training was needed, therefore, to help troop-contributing countries contribute troops with equal capacities; the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya would continue to cooperate with the Integrated Training Service to that end. Armed attacks on peacekeepers and restrictions on movement had hampered many operations, not least in Darfur; all-inclusive political processes and clear mandates were vital for ensuring the safety and security of peacekeepers.

55. The low numbers of women in United Nations peacekeeping missions betrayed the spirit of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). As cases of gender-based violence in conflict areas were on the increase, the role of women personnel was becoming more critical. Kenya was ready to cooperate with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support in running a pilot course on integrating a gender perspective into the work of the military. His delegation also favoured the formulation of guidelines on delineating responsibilities for the protection of all civilians. He concluded with a tribute to the courage of all peacekeepers, in particular those who had given their lives.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.